

## AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently amended) A method of operating an internal market, comprising:  
using a software process executing on a computer, automatically causing a portion or all of an order to be simultaneously represented in both the internal market and an external market, wherein the internal and external markets each have a plurality of market participants and separately facilitate an exchange between the market participants, and wherein the same portion or all of the order is simultaneously represented in both the internal and external markets; and  
automatically ensuring the order is executable by a market participant in at most one of the internal market and the external market, wherein the order is executable without chance of a duplicate execution in more than one of the internal and external markets.
2. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising automatically synchronizing performance of an operation at the internal market and the external market.
3. (Previously presented) The method of claim 2, wherein automatically synchronizing includes causing a transaction performed in one of the internal and external markets to be performed in the other of the internal and external markets, the transaction being an operation to cancel or post an order.
4. (Previously presented) The method of claim 2, wherein automatically synchronizing includes causing an execute operation performed in one of the internal and external markets to cause a cancel operation to be performed in the other of the internal and external markets.
5. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising conditionally performing an operation in one of the internal and external markets, and committing the conditional operation after receiving confirmation from the other of the internal and external

markets that the operation has been communicated to the other of the internal and external markets.

6. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising providing a mechanism for coupling the internal and external markets such that only one of the internal and external markets maintains the order for execution by a market participant at either of the internal market or the external market.

7. (Previously presented) The method of claim 6, wherein when one of the internal and external markets is in fast symbol mode, the other of the internal and external markets operates as a router to route orders to the market in fast symbol mode without posting the order at the other of the internal and external markets.

8. (Previously presented) The method of claim 7, wherein an order can be executed at only the market in fast symbol mode.

9. (Previously presented) The method of claim 6, further comprising resynchronizing an order book containing orders at each of the internal and external markets before decoupling the internal and external markets, wherein the markets, once decoupled, are capable to separately facilitate an exchange between market participants.

10. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the automatically ensuring [[uses]] is performed by a software process executing on a computer platform that communicates between the internal market and the external market.

11-27. (Canceled)

28. (Currently amended) A system configured to operate an internal market, comprising:

a computing component programmed to represent a portion or all of an order in the internal market and to automatically cause the same portion or all of the order to be simultaneously represented at an external market, wherein the internal and external markets each have a plurality of market participants and separately facilitate an exchange between the market participants,

wherein the computing component is further configured to automatically ensure that the order is executable by a market participant in at most one of the internal market and the external market, the order being executable without chance of a duplicate execution in more than one of the internal and external markets.

29. (Previously presented) The system of claim 28, wherein the computing component is further configured to automatically synchronize performance of an operation at the internal market and the external market.

30. (Previously presented) The system of claim 29, wherein the computing component is configured to automatically cause a transaction performed in one of the internal and external markets to be performed in the other of the internal and external markets, the transaction being an operation to cancel or post an order.

31. (Previously presented) The method of claim 29, wherein the computing component is configured to automatically cause an execute operation performed in one of the internal and external markets to cause a cancel operation to be performed in the other of the internal and external markets.

32. (Previously presented) The system of claim 28, wherein the computing component is configured to conditionally perform an operation in one of the internal and external markets, and commit the conditional operation after receiving confirmation from the other of the

internal and external markets that the operation has been communicated to the other of the internal and external markets.

33. (Previously presented) The system of claim 28, wherein the computing component is coupled to the external market such that only one of the internal and external markets maintains the order for execution by a market participant at either of the internal market or the external market.

34. (Previously presented) The method of claim 33, wherein when one of the internal and external markets is in fast symbol mode, the other of the internal and external markets is configured to operate as a router to route orders to the market in fast symbol mode without posting the order at the other of the internal and external markets.

35. (Previously presented) The system of claim 34, wherein an order can be executed at only the market in fast symbol mode.

36. (Previously presented) The system of claim 33, wherein the computing component is configured to maintain an order book containing orders and further resynchronize its order book with an order book at the external market before decoupling the internal and external markets, wherein the markets, once decoupled, are capable to separately facilitate an exchange between market participants.

37. (Previously presented) The system of claim 28, further comprising a software process executable by the computing component to provide communication between the internal market and the external market.

38. (New) A computer-accessible medium having executable instructions stored thereon for operating an internal market, wherein the instructions, when executed, cause a computer to:

receive an order that is executable at a market;

automatically cause a portion or all of the order to be simultaneously represented in both the internal market and an external market, wherein the internal and external markets each have a plurality of market participants and separately facilitate an exchange between the market participants, and wherein the same portion or all of the order is simultaneously represented in both the internal and external markets; and

automatically ensure that the order is executable by a market participant in at most one of the internal market and the external market, wherein the order is executable without chance of a duplicate execution in more than one of the internal and external markets.

39. (New) The computer-accessible medium of claim 38, wherein the executable instructions further cause the computer to automatically synchronize performance of an operation at the internal market and the external market.

40. (New) The computer-accessible medium of claim 39, wherein synchronizing performance of an operation includes causing a transaction performed in one of the internal and external markets to be performed in the other of the internal and external markets, the transaction being an operation to cancel or post an order.

41. (New) The computer-accessible medium of claim 39, wherein synchronizing performance of an operation includes causing an execute operation performed in one of the internal and external markets to cause a cancel operation to be performed in the other of the internal and external markets.

42. (New) The computer-accessible medium of claim 38, wherein the executable instructions further cause the computer to conditionally perform an operation in one of the internal and external markets, and commit the conditional operation after receiving confirmation

from the other of the internal and external markets that the operation has been communicated to the other of the internal and external markets.

43. (New) The computer-accessible medium of claim 38, wherein the executable instructions further cause the computer to couple the internal and external markets such that only one of the internal and external markets maintains the order for execution by a market participant at either of the internal market or the external market.

44. (New) The computer-accessible medium of claim 43, wherein when one of the internal and external markets is in fast symbol mode, the executable instructions cause the computer to operate the other of the internal and external markets as a router to route orders to the market in fast symbol mode without posting the order at the other of the internal and external markets.

45. (New) The computer-accessible medium of claim 44, wherein the executable instructions enable execution of the order at only the market in fast symbol mode.

46. (New) The computer-accessible medium of claim 43, wherein the executable instructions further cause the computer to resynchronize an order book containing orders at each of the internal and external markets before decoupling the internal and external markets, wherein the markets, once decoupled, are capable to separately facilitate an exchange between the market participants.